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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hikaru KAMEYOSHI et al.

Atty. Dkt. No. 086142-0494

Title: SEAT BELT RETRACTOR

Appl. No.: 09/988,048

Filed: 11/16/2001

Examiner: Sang K. KIM

Art Unit: 3654

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated ~~October~~ 31, 2002, please amend the application as set forth below.

The changes are shown explicitly in the attached "Version Showing Changes Made."

In the Specification:

121
[029] The operation of the pretensioner 100 will now be described. Before the actuation of the pretensioner 100, the ring gear 118 is held by the pins 117. In this state, the ring gear 118 and the pinion 120 are out of mesh. Therefore, the spool 102 can freely rotate. When the gas generator 112 is ignited to generate gas, the balls 115 are pushed via the piston 114 by the pressure of gas. As a result, the pins 117 are sheared by forces from the balls 115, whereby the ring gear 118 is released to be free and the internal teeth 118b of the ring gear 118 and the external teeth 120a of the pinion 120 are meshed with each other as shown in Fig. 8 and Fig. 9. As the ring gear 118 is forced to be rotated by the balls 115,